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United Nations

Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

General Assembly

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Supplement No. 20 (A/53/20)

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Chapter I
Introduction

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its forty-first session at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 3 to 12 June 1998. The officers of the Committee were as follows:

Chairman: U. R. Rao (India)

Vice-Chairman: Raimundo Gonzalez (Chile)

Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur:[1]

The verbatim unedited transcripts of the meetings of the Committee are contained in documents COPUOS/T.443 to 455.

Meetings of subsidiary bodies

2. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had held its thirty-fifth session at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 9 to 20 February 1998 under the chairmanship of Dietrich Rex (Germany). The report of the Subcommittee was issued as document A/AC.105/695 and Corr.1.

3. The Legal Subcommittee had held its thirty-seventh session at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 23 to 31 March 1998 under the chairmanship of Václav Mikulka (Czech Republic). The report of the Subcommittee was issued as document A/AC.105/698. The verbatim unedited transcripts of the meetings of the Subcommittee are contained in documents COPUOS/Legal/T.605 to 612.

Adoption of the agenda

4. At its opening meeting, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda (including election of the Rapporteur).
2. Statement by the Chairman.
3. General exchange of views.
4. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
5. Preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) by the Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE III.
6. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-fifth session (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1).
7. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/698).
8. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
9. Other matters.
10. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

Membership and attendance

5. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1721 E (XVI) of 20 December 1961, 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 32/196 B of 20 December 1977, 35/16 of 3 November 1980 and 49/33 of 9 December 1994 and decision 45/315 of 11 December 1990, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was composed of the following Member States: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia,[2] Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru,[2] Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia.

6. At its 443rd, 444th, 447th and 454th meetings, the Committee decided to invite, at their request, the representatives of Algeria, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Finland, Guatemala, the Holy See, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Thailand, Tunisia, together with the League of Arab States, to attend its forty-first session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

7. Representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) also attended the session.

8. Representatives of the European Space Agency (ESA), the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the International Law Association (ILA), the International Mobile Satellite Organization (Inmarsat), the International

Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the International Space University (ISU) and the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT) also attended the session.

9. A list of delegations and representatives attending the session is contained in document A/AC.105/XLI/INF/1. The States members of the Committee attending the session were: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela and Viet Nam.

Proceedings

Bureau of the Committee

10. The Committee, informed that Mouslim Kabbaj (Morocco) was unable to complete his term of office as Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of the Committee, recalled that the agreement reached in 1997 on the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies,[3] which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, provided that when any officer could not complete a term, the regional group holding the office concerned should nominate a candidate to be elected at the beginning of the session that immediately followed the termination of that officer's tenure.

11. The Committee noted that the African Group would need to nominate a candidate to replace Mouslim Kabbaj and that because of the short time between the notification and the beginning of the current session, the African Group had not had sufficient time to consult among its members to produce a consensus candidate. The Committee agreed to proceed with its work while including in its agenda the item "Election of the Rapporteur" and to take up that agenda item when the African Group had concluded its consultations.

12. The Committee was informed by the Chairman of the African Group that the Group required further consultations on the matter of nominating a candidate from the Group for the office of Rapporteur of the Committee.

Statements

13. At its 443rd to 445th meetings, the Committee held a general exchange of views, in the course of which statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), China, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

14. At the 443rd meeting, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat made a statement reviewing the work of the Office during the previous year and the documentation before the Committee.

15. Statements were also made by the representatives of ESA, IAA, ILA, Inmarsat and INTELSAT, as well as the Expert on Space Applications of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. The Committee also heard special presentations by the representative of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, on the space exhibition for UNISPACE III at its 448th meeting, on 8 June 1998; by the representative of the Russian Federation, on contamination of the space surrounding Earth by artificial and natural debris, at the 449th meeting, on 9 June 1998; by the representative of ISU on preparations for the youth forum at UNISPACE III, at the 450th meeting, on 9 June 1998; and by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), as the current chair of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), on the activities of CEOS, at the 453rd meeting, on 11 June 1998.

16. After considering the various items before it, the Committee, at its 455th meeting, on 12 June 1998, adopted its report to the General Assembly containing the recommendations and decisions set out below.

Chapter II
Recommendations and decisions

A. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes (agenda item 4)

17. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56, paragraph 32, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space continued its consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, taking into account the views expressed at its fortieth session and at the fifty-second session of the General Assembly.

18. The Committee was of the view that the request of the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/56, to the Committee to continue to consider that item as a matter of priority and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-third session showed the concern felt by the international community and the need to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, taking into account the needs of developing countries. The Committee, through its work in the scientific, technical and legal fields, had an important role to play in ensuring that outer space was maintained for peaceful purposes. It was the firm belief of the members of the Committee that current efforts should be continued that would strengthen the role of the Committee in maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. The Committee had responsibilities relating to the strengthening of the international basis for the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space, which could cover, among other matters, further development of international space law, including, as appropriate, the preparation of international agreements governing various practical peaceful applications of space science and technology. Strengthening international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space also implied the need for the Committee itself to improve, whenever necessary, the methods and forms of its work.

19. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee should contribute to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes by strengthening the scientific and technical content of its work and by promoting broader and deeper international and regional cooperation between all countries in outer space activities. One delegation was of the view that some of those cooperative activities should pay particular attention to natural disaster management, the use of satellite technology for global search-and-rescue activities and medical and biological applications of space technology.

20. The view was expressed that the Committee had been created exclusively to address international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and that the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament were the competent multilateral bodies for dealing with disarmament. That delegation also expressed the view that agenda item 4 had produced measurable results in the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, namely, the establishment in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the addition of new items to the agenda of that Subcommittee, the impetus for completing negotiations on the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space, and the addition of the agenda item of the Committee concerning spin-off benefits of space exploration.

21. The view was expressed that the Committee should complement and contribute to the work being done in the Conference on Disarmament, considering that the peaceful uses of outer space and questions relating to the disarmament of outer space were overlapping.

22. The view was expressed that one of the ways to promote the peaceful uses of outer space was for more countries to participate in the exploration of outer space and to utilize the benefits derived from those activities, and that to attain that objective, creation of an indigenous capacity of Member States, especially in the developing countries, should be considered a priority.

B. Preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) by the Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE III

Background

23. The Committee, in its role as Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE III, noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/56, paragraph 23, had agreed that the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) should be convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999 as a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, open to all States Members of the United Nations. In paragraph 24 of the same resolution, the Assembly had requested the Preparatory and Advisory Committees and the executive Secretariat to carry out their tasks in accordance with the recommendations made by the Preparatory Committee at its 1997 session, as contained in the report of the Committee on that session[4] and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

24. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56, paragraph 17, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had reconvened the Working Group of the Whole, under the chairmanship of Muhammad Nasim Shah (Pakistan), to assist the Advisory Committee in giving full consideration to the tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

25. The Working Group of the Whole had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.105/C.1/L.218) containing elements to be considered for inclusion in the full

draft report of UNISPACE III and a report by the Secretariat on organizational matters relating to the holding of UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/685 and Corr.1). The Working Group also had before it a note by the Secretariat concerning the participation of observers in the Conference (A/AC.105/C.1/1998/CRP.6).

26. Concerning the preparation of the draft report of UNISPACE III, the Working Group of the Whole had conducted a section-by-section consideration of the text contained in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.218 and provided detailed comments concerning the structure and content of the text. The Working Group had noted that the Secretariat would prepare the first full draft report of the Conference for consideration by the Preparatory Committee at its 1998 session. The Working Group had also made recommendations concerning the organization of UNISPACE III, including the establishment of main committees and the composition of the bureau, consideration of agenda items, participation of international organizations and industry, rules of procedure, space exhibition, public evening lectures and regional preparatory meetings, which were reflected in the report of the Working Group to the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex II).

27. The Advisory Committee had noted that the report of the Working Group of the Whole provided the basis for the Preparatory Committee to carry out the task entrusted to it by the General Assembly (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, para. 54). The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee recommended that the Working Group of the Whole should be reconvened in 1999 in order to continue to assist the Advisory Committee in its preparatory work for UNISPACE III.

Decisions by the Preparatory Committee

28. The Preparatory Committee, having considered the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee, endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee as contained in its report to the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex II, paras. 13–43). The Committee agreed that the report of the Working Group provided the basis for the Preparatory Committee to carry out the task entrusted to it by the General Assembly in paragraph 24 of its resolution 52/56.

29. The Committee decided to establish a Working Group of the Whole, under the chairmanship of Ulrike Butschek (Austria), to assist the Committee in carrying out the tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly. The Committee requested the Working Group to give full consideration to those tasks relating to the preparation of the draft report of UNISPACE III and the provisional rules of procedure.

30. The Working Group of the Whole held seven meetings. At the 454th meeting, the Chairman of the Working Group of the Whole reported to the Committee on the work conducted by the Working Group. The Committee agreed with the recommendations made by the Working Group as contained in paragraphs 31 to 37 below.

Preparation of the draft report of UNISPACE III

31. The Working Group of the Whole had before it a note by the Secretariat (A/CONF.184/PC/L.1) containing the text of the first full draft report. The Working Group also had before it a working paper entitled "European position paper on the draft report of UNISPACE III" (A/CONF.184/PC/L.2), which had been submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on its own behalf and on that of the following other ESA member States and States having cooperation agreements with ESA: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

32. At its first meeting, the Working Group of the Whole decided to prepare an executive summary of the report and to revise the text of "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development" document (A/CONF.184/PC/L.1, sect.V). In that connection, the Working Group agreed to establish a drafting group to prepare texts of the executive summary and the Vienna Declaration. The drafting group was chaired by Iffat Imran Gardezi (Pakistan), with the assistance of Stéphane Lessard (Canada) to coordinate the work of the group.

33. The Working Group of the Whole conducted a detailed consideration of the text contained in document A/CONF.184/PC/L.1 and provided a number of comments concerning the structure of the report and the content of the text. The Working Group agreed that on the basis of those comments and other observations to be made, the Secretariat should revise the text and prepare the second full draft report in time for the 1999 session of the Advisory Committee, in order to finalize the text of the draft report.

34. At the third meeting of the Working Group of the Whole, the Chairman of the drafting group introduced the texts of the executive summary and Vienna Declaration (A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.4 and 7). The Working Group considered the texts and provided detailed comments and the drafting group prepared a revised text of the Vienna

Declaration (A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.7/Rev.1) on the basis of the comments made in the Working Group.

35. The Working Group of the Whole noted that the executive secretariat would circulate to the Member States, at the end of September 1998, the draft report and the Vienna Declaration as revised by the Working Group along with the executive summary, to be revised on the basis of comments received from Member States. It further noted that the executive secretariat would provide a compilation of the recommendations from regional preparatory conferences for UNISPACE III and other comments to be received from Member States for consideration by the Advisory Committee, at its 1999 session, for inclusion in the draft report, the executive summary and the Vienna Declaration.

Rules of procedure

36. The Working Group of the Whole had before it draft provisional rules of procedure for UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/PC/L.3). The Working Group also had before it a proposal by Greece (A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.6) concerning those draft provisional rules of procedure. The Working Group considered those documents and made detailed comments.

37. The Working Group of the Whole agreed on the text of the provisional rules of procedure for UNISPACE III, as amended by the Working Group, which is contained in A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.8 (see the annex to the present report). The Working Group recommended that the provisional rules of procedure should be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session for its endorsement.

Organization of UNISPACE III

38. The Preparatory Committee had before it conference room papers prepared by the Secretariat concerning the organizations and industries to be invited to UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.1) and the organization of the Technical Forum (A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.2).

39. The Committee agreed that international organizations listed in document A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.1 should be invited, through the executive secretariat, to participate in UNISPACE III. The Committee also agreed that space-related industries and national organizations should be invited through their respective Governments to participate in UNISPACE III and that Member States should transmit to the executive secretariat lists of industries and organizations that they had invited to participate in UNISPACE III.

40. The Preparatory Committee agreed that the Advisory Committee, at its 1999 session, should reach agreement on the distribution of the remaining posts for the Conference and the allocation of agenda items of the Conference between committees I and II as well as determine substantive agenda items to be considered by workshops and seminars to be organized within the framework of the Technical Forum. In that connection, the Preparatory Committee requested the executive secretariat to submit proposals to assist the Advisory Committee in considering those matters.

Other matters

41. The Preparatory Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Legal Subcommittee concerning its contributions to UNISPACE III (see paras. 158 and 159 below).

42. The Preparatory Committee noted with satisfaction that, within the framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and with the co-sponsorship of ESA, the regional preparatory conference for UNISPACE III for Asia and the Pacific had been successfully held at Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 22 May 1998. The Committee also noted that regional preparatory conferences for UNISPACE III would also be held in Chile from 12 to 16 October 1998, in Morocco from 26 to 30 October 1998 and in Romania, from 25 to 29 January 1999.

43. The Preparatory Committee also noted with satisfaction that the Office for Outer Space Affairs had prepared background papers (A/CONF.184/BP/1–12), covering the topics included in the provisional agenda for UNISPACE III, and expressed its appreciation to those space agencies, international organizations, space-related institutions and experts who had contributed information or reviewed those papers.

44. The Preparatory Committee noted that, following its current session, the secretariat would send invitations and information relating to UNISPACE III to Member States, including information on the space exhibition.

C. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-fifth session (agenda item 6)

1. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-fifth session

45. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the

work of its thirty-fifth session (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1), covering the results of its deliberations on the items assigned to it by the General Assembly in resolution 52/56.

2. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

(a) Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

46. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56, paragraph 17, the Subcommittee had reconvened, under the chairmanship of Muhammad Nasim Shah (Pakistan), the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) to conclude its evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations of the Second Conference.

47. The Committee noted that the Working Group of the Whole had refined or interpreted several recommendations of UNISPACE 82, making them more specific to facilitate their implementation. As a result, good progress had been achieved, notably in the following areas:

(a) Arrangement of a fellowship programme for the organization of in-depth training courses and workshops by the Office for Outer Space Affairs on advanced applications of space science and technology;

(b) Enhancement in international and regional cooperation in the light of the continued development of worldwide space activities;

(c) Preparation of a series of technical studies relating to specific areas of space science, space technology and their applications, having in view the relevance of those studies to the international space activities as well as the needs of developing countries;

(d) Promotion of a greater exchange of actual experiences and cooperation in space science and technology;

(e) Establishment of regional centres for space science and technology education in each economic region, in order to stimulate the growth of indigenous nuclei and an autonomous technological base in space technology in developing countries;

(f) Efforts to arrange for appropriate allocations from the United Nations budget for the expanded activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and for requesting Member States to support the Programme through voluntary contributions, both in cash and in kind.

(b) United Nations Programme on Space Applications

48. At the outset of the deliberations of the Committee on the item, the Expert on Space Applications reviewed the activities carried out and planned under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications during the period 1997–1999. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Expert for the effective manner in which he had implemented the Programme within the limited funds at his disposal.

49. The Committee took note of the activities of the Programme as set out in the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, paras. 24–32). It was pleased to note that further progress was being made in the implementation of activities of the Programme planned for 1998.

(i) United Nations workshops, training courses and seminars

50. With regard to the United Nations workshops, training courses and seminars for 1998, the Committee expressed its appreciation to the following:

(a) The Government of Austria for co-sponsoring the United Nations Seminar on the Age of Space Commercialization: Evolving Role of Governments and Industries in Enhancing International Cooperation in Space Activities, hosted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the province of Tyrol and held at Alpbach, Austria, from 29 January to 1 February 1998;

(b) The Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific for co-sponsoring the United Nations/Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific Workshop on Emerging Trends in Satellite Meteorology: Technology and Applications, held at Ahmedabad, India, from 9 to 12 March 1998;

(c) The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) for co-sponsoring and supporting, on the basis of a cooperative agreement entered into by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and ISPRS, the Second United Nations International Conference on Spin-off Benefits of Space Technology, held at Tampa, Florida, United States, from 30 March to 3 April 1998;

(d) The Government of Malaysia for organizing and hosting, and ESA for co-sponsoring, the United Nations

Asia-Pacific regional preparatory conference for UNISPACE III, held at Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 22 May 1998;

(e) The Government of Sweden for co-sponsoring the Eighth United Nations International Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, held at Stockholm and Kiruna, Sweden, from 4 May to 12 June 1998;

(f) The Government of Austria, the province of Styria and the city of Graz for co-sponsoring the United Nations/European Space Agency Symposium on Economic Benefits of Using Space Technology Applications in Developing Countries, being organized with ESA, to be held at Graz, Austria, from 7 to 10 September 1998;

(g) The Spanish Mission Control Centre of the Government of Spain for hosting and, with ESA, co-sponsoring the United Nations Workshop on Space Technology for Emergency Aid/Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking System for Ships in Distress, to be held at Maspalomas, Canary Islands, Spain, from 23 to 25 September 1998;

(h) The Government of Australia and IAF for co-sponsoring the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Expanding the User Community of Space Technology in Developing Countries, to be held at Melbourne, Australia, from 24 to 27 September 1998;

(i) The Government of Chile for organizing and hosting, and ESA for co-sponsoring, the United Nations Latin American and Caribbean regional preparatory conference for UNISPACE III, to be held at Concepción, Chile, from 12 to 16 October 1998;

(j) The Government of Sweden for co-sponsoring the Workshop on the Evaluation of the United Nations/Swedish International Development Agency International Training Course Series on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, to be held at Gaborone, Botswana, from 18 to 21 October 1998;

(k) The Government of Morocco for organizing and hosting, and ESA for co-sponsoring, the United Nations African and Middle East regional preparatory conference for UNISPACE III, to be held at Rabat from 26 to 30 October 1998.

51. The Committee endorsed the programme of United Nations workshops, training courses and seminars proposed for 1999, as outlined by the Expert on Space Applications in his report (A/AC.105/693 and Corr.1 and Add.1, para. 30), and recommended those activities for approval by the General Assembly. The Committee noted the plans for the following activities which, to the extent possible, should disseminate information on UNISPACE III:

(a) United Nations regional preparatory conference for UNISPACE III, to be held in Romania from 25 to 29 January 1999;

(b) Ninth United Nations/Sweden International Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, to be held at Stockholm;

(c) Third United Nations International Conference on Spin-off Benefits of Space Technology: Challenges and Opportunities;

(d) United Nations/European Space Agency Workshop on Basic Space Science: World Space Observatory;

(e) United Nations/Austria symposium on the use of space technology for development, to be held at Graz, Austria;

(f) United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Information in Support of Sustainable Management, to be held in the Netherlands;

(g) United Nations Third Seminar on Space Futures and Human Security, to be held in the province of Tyrol, Austria;

(h) United Nations/China workshop on applications of space technology in sustainable agricultural development.

52. The Committee noted with appreciation the financial contributions of $25,000 from the Government of Austria and $105,000 from ESA in support of the 1998 activities of the Programme; $25,000 from Spectrum Astro Inc. (United States), $5,000 from Lockheed Martin Corporation (United States) and $2,500 from Federal Laboratories Consortium (United States) in support of the Second United Nations International Conference on Spin-off Benefits of Space Technology, held at Tampa, Florida, United States, from 30 March to 3 April 1998; and $15,000 from IAF for the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Expanding the User Community of Space Technology in Developing Countries, to be held at Melbourne, Australia, from 24 to 27 September 1998. The Committee noted that other Member States were planning to make contributions.

53. The Committee noted with appreciation the provision, by host countries and other entities, of experts as instructors and speakers in the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. It also noted the financial and other assistance that had been or would be provided to the Programme by: Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, World Meteorological Organization, Austrian Space Agency, Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES), Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), European Commission, ESA/European Space

Research Institute (ESRIN), European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), IAF, International Search and Rescue Satellite System (COSPAS-SARSAT), International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), Lockheed Martin Corporation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States and National Space Development Agency (NASDA) of Japan. The Committee further noted with appreciation that for the following activities organized in 1997 and 1998 in Austria, the Government of Austria had contributed $140,000 and the state and local governments involved had contributed $42,000: the United Nations Seminar on the Age of Space Commercialization: Evolving role of Governments and Industries in Enhancing International Cooperation in Space Activities, held at Alpbach; and the United Nations/European Space Agency Symposium on Economic Benefits of Using Space Technology Applications in Developing Countries, held at Graz.

(ii) Long-range fellowships for in-depth training

54. The Committee expressed its appreciation to ESA for offering feilowships through the United Nations in the period 1997–1998 and for renewing its offering of the fellowships for the period 1998–1999.

55. The Committee also expressed its appreciation to the Government of China for providing two long-term fellowships to developing countries for 1998–1999 on photogrammetry and remote sensing, geodesy and cartography, as a contribution to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82.

(iii) Technical advisory services

56. The Committee noted that the Programme had provided and would provide technical advisory services to the Government of Uruguay, in following up, as *pro tempore* secretariat, the recommendations of the Third Space Conference of the Americas.

57. The Committee also noted that the Programme was collaborating with several African countries on the implementation of a satellite-based cooperative information network linking scientists, educators, professionals and decision makers in Africa (COPINE), in order to address the urgent need to establish an efficient communications network among African and European professionals and scientists at the national, continental and intercontinental levels; with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and ESA on follow-up activities related to the recommendations of the training courses on applications of the European remote sensing satellite data to natural resources, renewable energy and the environment, held at Frascati, Italy, in 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1997; and with ESA on follow-up activities relating to the series of United Nations/ESA workshops on basic space science.

(iv) Regional centres for space science and technology education

58. The Committee welcomed the information on the establishment of the regional centres for space science and technology education, as reflected in the report of the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/693 and Corr.1 and Add.1, paras. 8–12) and invited Member States and space-related organizations to provide voluntary financial resources and other contributions in kind to support that effort.

59. The Committee recalled that the General Assembly, in paragraph 30 of its resolution 50/27, had endorsed the recommendation made by the Committee at its thirty-eighth session[5] that those centres be established on the basis of affiliation to the United Nations as early as possible, as such affiliation would provide the centres with the necessary recognition and would strengthen the possibilities of their attracting donors and of establishing academic relationships with national and international space-related institutions.

60. The Committee recommended that the United Nations, through the Office for Outer Space Affairs, should continue to provide all necessary support, within the limits of its existing resources, to the centres.

61. With regard to the regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific, inaugurated in India in November 1995, the Committee noted that participation in the Governing Board of the Centre and in its activities was open to Member States in the region and that, in due course and upon approval by its Governing Board, the Centre would grow into a network of nodes enabling it to fully utilize the resources and potential of the region. The Committee noted with satisfaction that five nine-month education programmes of the Centre had focused on remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS), satellite communications, satellite meteorology and global climate, and space science.

62. The Committee agreed with the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that Member States concerned in Asia and the Pacific undertake further consultations, with the assistance of the Office for Outer

Space Affairs, with a view to making the Centre grow into a network of nodes.

63. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the agreement establishing the regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Latin America and the Caribbean had been ratified by the Senate of Mexico in April 1997 and by the Brazilian Congress in December 1997.

64. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for English-speaking African Countries would be inaugurated in Nigeria in July 1998 and that the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for French-speaking African Countries would be inaugurated in Morocco in October 1998.

65. The Committee noted that discussions were in progress with Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic on the establishment of a regional centre in western Asia. Another Member State made a statement in which it offered its participation in facilitating the establishment of this centre.

66. The Committee noted that discussions between Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Turkey had led to the establishment of a network of space science and technology education and research institutions[6] for states of central, eastern and south-eastern Europe and that the activities of the network would be in harmony with the relevant work of existing institutions in Europe and would be open to international cooperation. The Committee noted that those member States had agreed to work with the Office for Outer Space Affairs to undertake a study on the technical requirements, design, operation mechanism and funding of the network, and that participating countries had decided that an evaluation mission for this purpose should be undertaken before the end of 1998. The Committee noted that the National Centre of Space Research and Education would be inaugurated in January 1999 in Bucharest as an element of the network and that a Web page (http://www.mam.gov.tr/space) and several issues of an electronic newsletter had been prepared by Turkey after the February 1997 meeting of the Group. The Committee noted as well that Italy would support the initiative to establish the network of space science and technology education and research institutions.

(v) Promotion of greater cooperation in space science and technology

67. Regarding the promotion of greater cooperation in space science and technology, the Committee noted with satisfaction that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications continued to co-sponsor symposia and workshops in conjunction with COSPAR, IAF and ISPRS meetings.

(c) International space information service

68. With regard to the international space information service, the Committee noted with satisfaction the publication of the ninth volume of "Seminars of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications: selected papers on space science education, remote sensing and small satellites" (A/AC.105/690), containing papers from the seminars, workshops and training courses of the 1997 activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications; and "Highlights in space: progress in space science, technology and applications, international cooperation and space law" (A/AC.105/691 and Corr.1), based on annual reports prepared by COSPAR and IAF, as well as input submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee by the International Institute of Space Law.

69. The Committee noted with satisfaction the steps taken by the Office for Outer Space Affairs to augment its international space information service through the development of a database capability and a home page on the Internet (http://www.un.or.at/OOSA/index.html), through which a wide range of information regarding the space-related activities of the United Nations, particularly those of the Committee and the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, could be accessed. The view was expressed that the home page should contain all the official languages of the United Nations.

(d) Coordination of space activities within the United Nations system and inter-agency cooperation

70. With regard to the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system and inter-agency cooperation, the Committee noted that the General Assembly, in paragraph 20 of resolution 52/56, had invited all Governments within the organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations working in the field of outer space or on space-related matters to take effective action for the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82.

71. The Committee also noted with appreciation that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirty-fifth session, had continued to stress the necessity of ensuring continuous and effective consultations and coordination in the field of outer space activities among organizations within the United Nations system and the avoidance of duplication

of activities (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, para. 37). The Committee noted with satisfaction that the nineteenth Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities had been held at Vienna from 2 to 3 June 1998 (A/AC.105/701) and that a report on the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system had been submitted to the Committee (A/AC.105/700). The Committee also noted that the need for holding in 1999 the twentieth Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities prior to UNISPACE III to consider additional contributions of the United Nations system of organizations to the Conference would be determined at a later date and that the exact date of the session to be held in 2000 would be determined after UNISPACE III.

72. The Committee noted with appreciation that representatives of United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international organizations had participated in all stages of its work. The Committee found that the reports submitted by those bodies had helped to enable it and its subsidiary bodies to fulfil their role as a focal point for international cooperation in space, especially with respect to the practical applications of space science and technology in developing countries.

(e) Regional and interregional cooperation mechanisms

73. Regarding regional and interregional cooperation mechanisms, the Committee noted with satisfaction that the Secretariat had continued to seek to promote the establishment and strengthening of regional mechanisms of cooperation by organizing regional workshops and training courses as part of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and by providing technical assistance for regional activities and conferences in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as by promoting the establishment of regional centres for space science and technology education.

74. The Committee noted the contributions made by other international organizations towards the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82. In particular, the Committee noted that the specialized agencies of the United Nations were continuing their activities in the areas of space applications within their respective mandates; COSPAR, IAF, IAU, the International Law Association (ILA), ISPRS and The Planetary Society (TPS) were continuing to promote international cooperation and exchange of information relating to space activities; and ESA was continuing its programme of international cooperative space activities, including training programmes for the benefit of developing countries, in support of the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and technical assistance programmes.

75. The Committee noted that the COPINE project (see para. 57) would offer an excellent opportunity to develop sources related to space applications for Africa, particularly in the exchange of information needed to promote progress in health care, agriculture, education, science and technology, and the management and monitoring of natural resources and the environment. The Committee further noted that the Space Conference of the Americas, through its *pro tempore* secretariat, currently being provided by Uruguay, was implementing several of the activities included in the plan of action adopted by the Third Space Conference of the Americas, including the holding of seminars for dissemination of information and the establishment of an Internet Web site.

76. The Committee noted that an agreement has been reached between the National Space Agency of Ukraine and the Russian Space Agency on joint activities in establishing an international space research centre on the basis of the National Centre for Control and Testing of Outer Space Means at Yevpatoria, Ukraine.

77. The Committee noted that substantial progress in regional cooperation had been made in the Asia and Pacific region regarding small satellites. In April 1998, the Governments of six countries, namely, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Bangkok concerning the Multi-mission Small Satellite Project and related Activities of Cooperation. This project would contribute to multilateral cooperation in space-related activities in the Asia and Pacific region.

3. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including, *inter alia*, applications for developing countries

78. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had given priority consideration to matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites.

79. The Committee noted the importance, particularly for developing countries, of sharing experiences and technologies, of cooperating through international and regional remote sensing centres and of working jointly on collaborative projects. It recognized that remote sensing activities should take into account the need to provide appropriate and non-discriminatory access to meet the needs of developing countries.

80. The Committee recognized the importance of ongoing international efforts to ensure the continuity, compatibility and complementarity of systems for remote sensing of the Earth and to promote cooperation through regular meetings of satellite operators, ground-station operators and users. It also noted the value of remote sensing systems for environmental monitoring and stressed the need for the international community to utilize remote sensing data in an effort to implement fully the recommendations contained in Agenda 21,[7] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992.

81. The Committee emphasized the importance of making remote sensing data and analysed information available to all countries at reasonable cost and in a timely manner. It also recognized the example of international cooperation in the World Meteorological Organization in the exchange of meteorological data as provided for in resolution 40 adopted by the Twelfth WMO Congress on 21 June 1995.

82. The Committee noted with satisfaction the prototype CEOS Information Locator Service (CILS), funded by the former German Space Agency (now merged with the German Aerospace Research Establishment to become the German Aerospace Center (DLR)) and currently in the demonstration phase, which was aimed at assisting users in developing countries in locating and accessing sources of information about Earth observation data, projects and services (http://cils.dlr.de/home.pl).

83. The Committee noted that Malaysia and its neighbouring countries had recently experienced severe haze episodes caused by uncontrollable peat and forest fires brought on by extreme drought and that data from the SPOT (France) and NOAA/AVHRR (United States) satellites had been used to determine and monitor the burning areas. Since the countries in the region affected by haze did not operate any remote sensing satellites, the Committee appealed to the world space community to further assist in the provision of remote sensing data during such disasters.

84. The view was expressed that in accordance with the principles on remote sensing adopted by the General Assembly, the availability of remote sensing data should not be withheld from particular States, based upon their political status, since all space-related activities should be conducted for the benefit of and in the interests of all countries.

85. The Committee also endorsed the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that further consideration of the item should be postponed until 2000 in view of the abbreviated schedule of work of the Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session, in 1999, and the preparatory work to be carried out for UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, para. 66).

4. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

86. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had continued its consideration, on a priority basis, of the item relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. The Committee also noted that the Subcommittee had reconvened the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space to enable it to resume its work. The Committee took note of the discussions of the Subcommittee and its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, as reflected in its report, and of the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, paras. 67–81 and annex III).

87. The Committee recalled that the General Assembly had adopted the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, as contained in its resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992. While noting that the Principles provided that they should be reopened for review and revision by the Committee no later than two years after their adoption, the Committee recalled that, at its fortieth session, it had agreed that the Principles should remain in their current form until amended and that, before amendment, proper consideration should be given to the aims and objectives of any proposed revision.

88. The Committee agreed with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that, while a revision of the Principles was not necessary at the current stage, it was important that States making use of nuclear power sources should conduct their activities in full accordance with the Principles (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, para. 68).

89. The Committee also agreed that regular discussions on the issue should continue at future sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and that the Subcommittee and the Working Group should continue to receive the widest input on matters affecting the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and any contribution related to improving the scope and application of the Principles.

90. The Committee agreed with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that Member States should continue to be invited to report to the Secretary-General on a regular basis with regard to national and international research concerning the safety of space objects with nuclear power sources, that further studies should be conducted on the issue of the collision of orbiting space objects with nuclear power

sources on board with space debris and that the Subcommittee should be kept informed of the results of such studies (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, para. 76).

91. The Committee noted that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had endorsed the recommendation of its Working Group on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space to adopt a four-year work plan and its proposed schedule of work for developing a framework for safety assurance processes and standards for nuclear power sources in outer space. The Committee agreed that, as a first step, the Secretariat should invite Member States and international organizations to submit information on the following topics, to be considered in 2000 and 2001:

(a) Identification of terrestrial processes and technical standards that may be relevant to nuclear power sources, including factors that distinguish nuclear power sources in outer space from terrestrial nuclear applications;

(b) Review of national and international processes, proposals and standards and national working papers relevant to the launch and peaceful use of nuclear power sources in outer space (A/AC.105/697, annex III, para. 4).

92. The Committee also endorsed the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that further consideration of the item should be postponed until 2000 in view of the abbreviated schedule of work of the Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session, in 1999, and the preparatory work to be carried out for UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, para. 81). The Committee agreed that the Working Group should be reconvened in 2000 to continue its work.

5. Space debris

93. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had continued its consideration of the agenda item on space debris on a priority basis. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee on space debris, as reflected in its report (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, paras. 82–106).

94. The Committee agreed with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that consideration of space debris was important and that international cooperation was needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the potential impact of space debris on future space missions. The Committee also agreed that it was essential for Member States to pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, in accordance with paragraph 29 of General Assembly resolution 52/56.

95. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, following the invitation of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, a representative of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) had made a technical presentation on the subject of space debris mitigation practices. The Committee agreed with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that IADC should be invited to make a technical presentation on its work to the Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session (A/AC.105/697, para. 91).

96. The Committee agreed with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that it was important to have a firm scientific and technical basis for future action on the complex attributes of space debris and that the Subcommittee should focus on understanding aspects of research related to space debris, including debris measurement techniques; mathematical modelling of the debris environment; characterization of the space debris environment; and measures to mitigate the risks of space debris, including spacecraft design measures to protect against space debris (A/AC.105/697, paras. 97–98). The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Subcommittee had conducted its work based on the multi-year work plan that the Subcommittee had adopted at its thirty-second session to address specific topics relating to space debris to be covered during the period 1996–1998.

97. The Committee noted with satisfaction the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the current stage of the multi-year work plan, on the topic of space debris mitigation measures and of its corresponding technical report for 1998 (A/AC.105/697, para. 99). The Committee took note of the technical changes and amendments to the technical report for 1996–1997 on measurements of space debris, modelling of the space debris environment and risk assessment (A/AC.105/C.1/L.224). The Committee also noted that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session would concentrate on finalizing the full technical report on space debris for adoption after final editing during the inter-sessional period and consideration by relevant organizations (such as IADC and the International Academy of Astronautics).

98. Some delegations were of the view that the final technical report on space debris should include conclusions. The view was expressed that, given the uncertainties surrounding future projections of the space debris environment, conclusions on steps that should be taken to

deal with space debris would be premature at the current stage.

99. The view was expressed that spacefaring States that were responsible for launch activities should adopt and enforce tougher guidelines regarding space debris mitigation in order to prevent the cost of space activities from increasing beyond the means of developing countries.

100. The Committee agreed that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should continue the consideration of space debris, as a priority item, at its next session.

6. Space transportation systems

101. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56, the Subcommittee had continued its consideration of the item relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space.

102. The Committee took note of the progress being achieved in the various programmes in operation or being planned by Brazil, China, India, Japan, the Russian Federation, Spain, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States and by ESA.

103. The Committee stressed the importance of international cooperation in space transportation in order to provide all countries with access to the benefits of space science and technology. It also took note of recent developments in the launch vehicle industry.

104. The Committee noted with concern the emerging commercial activity of burials in space, which was currently being provided by a commercial company that had at least two scheduled flights per year. Though it was claimed that such missions, which placed cremated remains in outer space, had no adverse impact on the space environment, that claim was not scientifically proven.

105. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that further consideration of the item should be postponed until 2000 in view of the abbreviated schedule of work of the Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session, in 1999, and the preparatory work to be carried out for UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, para. 112).

7. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, *inter alia*, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

106. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56, the Subcommittee had continued its consideration of the item relating to the geostationary orbit and space communications.

107. The Committee agreed that the following principles formulated in a working paper presented by the Czech Republic to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee were universally accepted by the scientific and technical community and should be applied to future deliberations on the geostationary orbit: (a) the existence of orbits of all satellites, including geostationary satellites, depended mainly on gravitational phenomena generated by the entire body of the Earth; and (b) a geostationary satellite, whether acted upon by natural forces only or by man-made impulses, was not fixed over a point on Earth's equator: between corrective impulses of its station-keeping, it was in a natural flight caused by gravitational as well as non-gravitational forces generated by the Earth, the sun and the moon (A/AC.105/697, para. 118).

108. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that further consideration of the item should be postponed until 2000 in view of the abbreviated schedule of work of the Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session, in 1999, and the preparatory work to be carried out for UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, para. 122).

8. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine; progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the International Geosphere-Biosphere (Global Change) Programme; matters relating to planetary exploration; and matters relating to astronomy

109. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56, the Subcommittee had continued to consider the items concerning matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine; progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the International

Geosphere-Biosphere (Global Change) Programme; matters relating to planetary exploration; and matters relating to astronomy.

110. The Committee noted with satisfaction the wide variety of space activities being undertaken in those areas and the extensive international cooperation in those activities, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/697, paras. 123–129). It encouraged further cooperation in those areas and, in particular, further efforts to increase the participation of developing countries.

111. The Committee agreed that it could make an important contribution in the area of environment and development by promoting international cooperation in the applications of space technologies for environmental monitoring and sustainable development. In particular, the Committee agreed that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications could play an important role in assisting developing countries in strengthening their capabilities in related space technologies and applications.

112. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that further consideration of the item should be postponed until 2000 in view of the abbreviated schedule of work of the Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session, in 1999, and the preparatory work to be carried out for UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, para. 129).

9. Themes fixed for special attention at the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

113. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56, the Subcommittee had considered the theme fixed for special attention at the thirty-fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 1998: "Scientific and technical aspects and applications of space-based meteorology".

114. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56, COSPAR and IAF had conducted a symposium on the theme. The Committee expressed appreciation to COSPAR and IAF for their support of the work of the Subcommittee.

115. The Committee endorsed the recommendation that, in view of the UNISPACE III Conference, further consideration of the item should be postponed until 2000 and that the Subcommittee should identify at its thirty-sixth session, in 1999, the theme fixed for special attention at the thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, paras. 148 and 155). It also endorsed the recommendation that COSPAR and IAF, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium on that theme, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the thirty-seventh session of the Subcommittee, in order to complement discussions within the Subcommittee on the theme.

116. The Committee noted with appreciation the summary of the symposium and the scientific and technical presentations made during the thirty-fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/699).

D. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-seventh session (agenda item 7)

117. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/698), which contained the results of its deliberations on the items assigned to it by the General Assembly in resolution 52/56.

1. Question of review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space

118. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56 and as reflected in the report of the Legal Subcommittee (A/AC.105/698, paras. 20–26), the Subcommittee had considered the item relating to the review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/68.

119. The Committee agreed that the Principles would remain valid for the time being and that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should consider the need for revision in the light of changing technology before the Legal Subcommittee or the Committee undertook any actual revision.

120. The Committee noted that the Legal Subcommittee (A/AC.105/698, para. 24) had agreed that, at the current stage, revision of the Principles was not warranted and that therefore it should not open discussion of the item during its thirty-seventh session.

121. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Legal Subcommittee (A/AC.105/698, para. 26) that consideration of the Principles by its Working Group on agenda item 3 should be suspended at its thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions, pending the results of the work in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, without prejudice to the possibility of reconvening the Working Group if, in

the opinion of the Legal Subcommittee, sufficient progress was made in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session, in 2000, to warrant the reconvening of the Working Group by the Legal Subcommittee.

122. The Committee recommended that the item concerning nuclear power sources should be retained on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee to give delegations an opportunity to discuss it in plenary meetings.

2. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

123. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56, the Legal Subcommittee, through its Working Group on agenda item 4, under the chairmanship of G. Maffei (Argentina), had continued to consider matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit.

124. The Committee noted the work carried out by the Legal Subcommittee and the Working Group, as reflected in their reports (A/AC.105/698, paras. 27–45 and annex I).

125. The Committee noted that various views had been expressed on the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space during the thirty-seventh session of the Subcommittee, particularly on the basis of a note by the Secretariat entitled "Questionnaire on possible legal issues with regard to aerospace objects: replies from Member States" (A/AC.105/635 and Add.1–5), and a note by the Secretariat entitled "Comprehensive analysis of the replies to the questionnaire on possible legal issues with regard to aerospace objects" (A/AC.105/C.2/L.204), which had been before the Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session.

126. Some delegations expressed the view that the Legal Subcommittee should continue its consideration of the legal issues relating to aerospace objects and that Member States should work towards achieving consensus on the issue by providing responses to the questionnaire prepared by the Secretariat.

127. The view was expressed that the impetus of a new approach to the theme of the definition and delimitation of outer space through consideration of legal aspects of aerospace objects had been exhausted and that the Legal Subcommittee should decide how to proceed further with the item. The same delegation was also of the opinion that the possibility of postponing further discussion on the item until further progress in the development of aerospace objects became evident could be taken into account.

128. The view was expressed that legal issues before the Legal Subcommittee should be resolved within a reasonable time-frame. In particular, questions relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit should be resolved using a flexible approach, as those questions were important in relation to issues of national sovereignty and to ensuring fair and equitable use of the finite geostationary orbit.

129. The Committee took note of the deliberations on the question of the geostationary orbit as contained in the report of the Legal Subcommittee. The Committee also noted that an exchange of views had taken place on the subject, in particular on the basis of the ideas formulated in working papers entitled "Some considerations concerning the utilization of the geostationary satellite orbit" (A/AC.105/C.2/L.200 and Corr.1), submitted by Colombia to the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session (A/AC.105/639, annex III, sect. A); "An analysis of the compatibility of the approach contained in the working paper entitled 'Some considerations concerning the utilization of the geostationary satellite orbit' with the existing regulatory procedures of the International Telecommunication Union relating to the use of the geostationary orbit" (A/AC.105/C.2/L.205), prepared by the Secretariat in cooperation with ITU and submitted to the Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session; and "Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, *inter alia*, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries" (A/AC.105/C.1/L.216), submitted by the Czech Republic to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session.

130. The Committee welcomed the agreement that had been achieved concerning universal acceptance of the scientific principles formulated in the working paper presented by the Czech Republic to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session (A/AC.105/C.1/L.216), as reflected in paragraph 129 above, and expressed the view that such an agreement should serve as a progressive step towards the successful outcome of future deliberations of the Legal Subcommittee where the States concerned could express their views on issues relating to the utilization of the geostationary orbit.

131. The Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States expressed the view that the item on the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit was of particular interest to the countries of that regional group and that the item should continue to be considered by the Committee and by the Legal Subcommittee. The Group was also of the view that the working paper submitted by Colombia to the thirty-fifth session of the Legal Subcommittee (A/AC.105/200 and Corr.1) could serve as the basis for further progress in the consideration of the item.

132. Some delegations reiterated the view that the geostationary orbit, because of its particular characteristics, required a special, *sui generis* legal regime to regulate access and utilization by all States, taking into account the needs of developing countries.

133. Some delegations reaffirmed the view that the roles of ITU and of the Legal Subcommittee were complementary and that the Subcommittee should contribute to the establishment of a special legal regime to regulate the use of the geostationary orbit. However, other delegations reiterated the view that ITU was the appropriate body to address questions concerning the use of the geostationary orbit and was addressing those questions effectively.

134. Some delegations held the view that, because the geostationary orbit was an integral part of outer space, the legal regime established by the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies[8] adequately covered activities in and related to the geostationary orbit.

135. The Committee recommended that the Legal Subcommittee should continue its consideration of the item at its thirty-eighth session, in 1999.

3. Review of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space

136. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56 and as reflected in the report of the Legal Subcommittee (A/AC.105/698, paras. 46–64), the Subcommittee, began its review of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space.

137. The Committee was of the view that the review by the Legal Subcommittee of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space was a significant development in the revitalization of its work.

138. The Committee noted that some delegations had informed the Legal Subcommittee of the current status of, and further intended actions concerning, their accession to the five international legal instruments governing outer space. Some delegations submitted similar information to the Committee.

139. The Committee noted that an exchange of views had taken place in the Legal Subcommittee on the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space, in particular on the basis of the ideas formulated in a note by the Secretariat on the review of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space (A/AC.105/C.2/L.210), as well as in sections I and II of the working paper on the same subject submitted by Germany on behalf of the States members of the European Space Agency and States having signed cooperation agreements with ESA (A/AC.105/C.2/L.211).

140. Some delegations reiterated that the purpose of item 5 of the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee was not in any way to reopen substantive debate on or to revise or amend the five international legal instruments governing outer space, and that the Legal Subcommittee should restrict itself to reviewing the current status of the accession and adherence of States to those instruments with a view to maximizing such accession and adherence.

141. Some delegations stated that the review by the Legal Subcommittee of the status of the international legal instruments governing outer space could lead to the identification of additional agenda items aimed at the substantive review of those instruments. The view was also expressed that, not only should the numerical status of the parties to the United Nations space treaties be determined but also that the real causes for the limited numbers of States that had adhered to these treaties, particularly to only some of them, should be explored and possible remedies should be sought in order to change the unfavourable status of those instruments.

142. Other delegations reiterated the view that the five international legal instruments governing outer space were, by their nature, interdependent and that an overall approach should therefore be taken in any substantive review of the instruments. The methodology identified in the working paper submitted by the Russian Federation to the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/698, annex II) could serve as a practical basis for such an approach.

143. Some delegations reiterated the view that greater practical adherence to the principles embodied in the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects[9] could be achieved if more States were to make declarations in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 2777 (XXVI) of 29 November 1971,

thereby binding themselves on a reciprocal basis to the decisions of a Claims Commission established in accordance with article XIV of the Convention. Those delegations also expressed the view that such declarations by States parties would enhance the effectiveness and credibility of the Convention and called upon States parties to the Convention to make such declarations.

144. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that the Secretariat should be requested to prepare, within existing resources, a list of international agreements and other legal documents relevant to activities in outer space, and where they might be found, as a working document for Member States.

145. The Committee recommended that the Legal Subcommittee should continue its consideration of the item at its thirty-eighth session, in 1999, and establish a working group for that purpose in accordance with the previous recommendation made at the fortieth session of the Committee.

4. Other matters

(a) New agenda items

146. The Committee noted that the Legal Subcommittee had continued to conduct its informal consultations with a view to drawing up a list of annotated items agreed upon by consensus that could be considered by the Committee for possible inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee. The views of the Subcommittee on the matter are contained in its report (A/AC.105/698, paras. 66–72).

147. The Committee noted that a working paper entitled "Review of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space" (A/AC.105/C.2/L.211/Rev.1) had been submitted to the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session by Germany on behalf of the States members of ESA and States having signed cooperation agreements with ESA. Section III of the report, entitled "Improving the Registration Convention", contained a proposal for a new item to be included in the agenda of the Subcommittee.

148. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee should recommend the inclusion of that new item in the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session, in 2000.

149. The view was expressed that the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space currently served well the function for which it had been created and that the addition of the new agenda item prior to the conclusion of current items before the Legal Subcommittee would be inappropriate. That delegation also expressed the view that fundamental responsibility for the evaluation and amendment of the Convention lay with the States parties to it and that attention within the Legal Subcommittee should rather be focused on maximizing the application of and adherence to the Convention.

150. Some delegations noted that there was a need to consider the adequacy of the concept of the "launching State" as contained in the Registration Convention and the Liability Convention. They proposed that the Legal Subcommittee should consider this topic beginning in 2000 under a three-year work plan in a working group.

151. The view was expressed that more analysis in this area was required before agreement could be reached on a new item for the Legal Subcommittee dealing with this matter.

152. The Committee noted that inter-sessional consultations among interested delegations before the Legal Subcommittee session in 1999 would be welcome in order to seek a consensus on this matter.

153. The Committee agreed that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee would invite special presentations on new launch systems and ventures at their sessions in 2000 with a view to attaining a better understanding of these launch activities.

154. The view was reiterated that with the rapid evolution of technology and organization of space activities, the Legal Subcommittee would be called upon to formulate new legal instruments in the near future. Furthermore, some delegations expressed the view that the Subcommittee should give more consideration to the need for the progressive development of international space law and its codification. Therefore, the role of the Legal Subcommittee should be strengthened.

155. Some delegations expressed the view that the work of the Legal Subcommittee should be revitalized, including the development of additional agenda items for its consideration consistent with new technological developments.

156. The view was reiterated that the issue of conversion into legally binding instruments of the Principles Governing the Use by States of Artificial Earth Satellites for International Direct Television Broadcasting[11] and the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of Earth from Outer Space[12] should be listed among other items for possible inclusion in the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee.

157. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Legal Subcommittee that further informal consultations on specific proposals already made for possible new agenda

items for the Legal Subcommittee should continue at its next session, in 1999.

(b) Contribution of the Legal Subcommittee to the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

158. The Committee welcomed the fact that the Legal Subcommittee had agreed to make a contribution to the deliberations of UNISPACE III on issues relating to the promotion of international cooperation in space-related activities and the development of space law, as well as on other legal issues.

159. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Legal Subcommittee that the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee should report to UNISPACE III on the work of the Subcommittee, including its past achievements, current work and new challenges in the development of space law.

E. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status (agenda item 8)

160. In accordance with paragraph 33 of General Assembly resolution 52/56, the Committee continued its consideration of spin-off benefits of space technology.

161. The Committee agreed that spin-offs of space technology were yielding many substantial benefits and took note of the efforts in many Member States to develop such spin-off benefits and to disseminate information on such activities to interested countries.

162. The Committee noted that spin-off technologies had evolved into many new and improved products and processes, in particular in agriculture, where new seeds developed in microgravity had led to higher quality and yield of crops; in health and medicine, where new materials had led to cushions that slowed progressive deformities in severely disabled people; in satellite remote sensing, which significantly reduced the cost of building railroads; and in industrial productivity, where a new laser developed for space applications was finding use in commercial applications in diamond marking, fluorescence microscopy, chromosome surgery and semiconductor line cutting.

163. The Committee agreed that in promoting spin-off benefits and effective space applications, in particular in the case of developing countries, it was essential that the capacity to understand the technology and to develop it were considered to be of primary importance. The Committee was of the view that developing countries should enhance their potential in basic and advanced research in order to promote capacity-building for space applications and to benefit from spin-offs of space technology.

164. The view was expressed that efforts to enable developing countries to participate in activities pertaining to technology development should be intensified in order to narrow the gap between technologically developed and developing countries. In that context, the delegation noted that the General Assembly, in paragraph 39 of its resolution 51/123, of 13 December 1996, had requested the Committee to continue its work in accordance with that resolution, considering, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, including views on which subjects should be studied in the future. That delegation also noted that the Committee had agreed that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, beginning with its thirty-fifth session, in 1998, might deliberate on projects or programmes which might be considered appropriate to be undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations, so long as it did not interfere with the planning and preparations for UNISPACE III. That delegation, further noting that the request had not been considered at the thirty-fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in view of the large amount of work necessary for the preparations for UNISPACE III, was of the view that the Subcommittee and the Committee should take up the matter at future sessions as appropriate.

165. The Committee recommended that further consideration of the item should be postponed until 2000 in view of its abbreviated schedule of work at its forty-second session, in 1999, and the preparatory work to be carried out for UNISPACE III.

F. Other matters

1. Reports to the Committee

166. The Committee noted with appreciation the participation in its work and in that of its subcommittees of representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), WMO, ITU, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), IAEA, the Association of Space Explorers (ASE), COSPAR, ESA, the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), IAF, IAU, ILA, INTERSPUTNIK, Inmarsat, ISPRS, ISU and INTELSAT. The Committee

expressed appreciation to those organizations that had submitted reports on their activities and requested interested organizations to continue to keep it informed of their activities relating to the peaceful uses of outer space.

167. As Member States would be invited to prepare national papers for UNISPACE III, the Committee recommended that the Secretariat should postpone inviting Member States to submit annual reports on their space activities until 2000. In addition to information on national and international space programmes, the reports could include information on spin-off benefits of space activities and other topics requested by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

2. Membership of the Committee

168. Some delegations expressed the view that the practice of sharing seats on a rotating basis should be ended, that the will and capacity of a State to contribute to the work of the Committee should be taken into account as elements in appointing members of the Committee and that, therefore, all rotating members should become full permanent members as early as possible.

3. Records of the Committee

169. The General Assembly, in its resolution 52/56, paragraph 9, had noted with satisfaction that the Committee had evaluated the use of unedited verbatim transcripts at its fortieth session and agreed to continue the use of those transcripts in lieu of verbatim records and to further review its requirements for those transcripts at its forty-first session and inform the General Assembly at its fifty-third session of the experience of the Committee with the transcripts.

170. The Committee noted that the Legal Subcommittee, on the basis of its recommendation at its thirty-fifth session, in 1996, had again been provided with verbatim (unedited) transcripts of its thirty-seventh session, in 1998, in lieu of summary records.

171. The Committee had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat entitled "Utilization of unedited verbatim transcripts" (A/AC.105/1998/CRP.3), which provided details on the cost of the unedited verbatim transcripts in comparison with verbatim and summary records.

172. The Committee agreed, on the basis of its evaluation on the use of unedited verbatim transcripts at its fortieth session, to continue the use of those transcripts in lieu of verbatim records.

G. Future work

173. The Committee noted the views of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the future role and work of the Subcommittee and endorsed the recommendations concerning the agenda for its thirty-sixth session, as reflected in the report on its thirty-fifth session (A/AC.105/697, paras. 151–155).

174. Regarding the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, the Committee recommended that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-eighth session, should:

(a) Continue its consideration of the question of the review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (item 3);

(b) Continue, through its Working Group on agenda item 4, its consideration of matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union (item 4);

(c) Continue its review of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space (item 5) and establish a working group to consider the item;

(d) Continue its consideration of other matters, including informal consultations on specific proposals already made for possible new agenda items for the Legal Subcommittee (item 6).

175. With regard to the item contained in paragraph 173 (a) above, the Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Legal Subcommittee that the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (agenda item 3) should be suspended for two years, in view of the shortened session of the Legal Subcommittee in 1999 and pending the results of the work in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, without prejudice to the possibility of reconvening the Working Group on that item if, in the opinion of the Legal Subcommittee, sufficient progress was made in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session, in 2000, to warrant the reconvening of the Working Group by the Legal Subcommittee (A/AC.105/698, paras. 15 and 26).

176. The Committee recalled its recommendation that the Legal Subcommittee, on a permanent basis, should rotate each year the order of consideration of substantive agenda items and endorsed the recommendation of the Legal Subcommittee that the substantive agenda items should be

considered at the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee, in 1999, in the following order: items 3, 5, 4 and 6.

177. The Committee took note of the measures that had been adopted by the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-first session as well as additional measures agreed for future sessions of the Subcommittee in order to improve the utilization of conference services. The Committee endorsed the agreement of the Legal Subcommittee that a similar organization of work would serve as the basis for organizing the work of the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session, including efforts to conclude the session of the Legal Subcommittee as early as practicable in accordance with paragraphs 12 (j), 13 and 14 of the report of the Legal Subcommittee (A/AC.105/698).

178. The Committee recalled the agreement in paragraph 160 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-fourth session (A/AC.105/672), in which the exact schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in 1999 would be confirmed by the Committee at its forty-first session, in 1998.

179. The Committee agreed to schedule the thirty-sixth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 1999, for five days and, in view of the agenda of the Subcommittee for its thirty-sixth session as well as its role as Advisory Committee for the UNISPACE III Conference, also agreed that the session could be extended up to three additional days, if necessary, in order to complete the work of the Subcommittee and the Advisory Committee. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare an appropriate indicative schedule of work for five days.

180. The Committee further agreed that the thirty-eighth session of the Legal Subcommittee, in 1999, would meet for five days immediately following the session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and that the Committee would meet for three days immediately prior to the UNISPACE III Conference in July.

181. The Committee agreed that the duration of sessions for the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in 1999 would be on an exceptional basis for that year only, so that the savings resulting from the shortening of the sessions could be utilized for UNISPACE III.

H. Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

182. The Committee indicated the following tentative timetable for 1999:

	Date	*Site*
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (Advisory Committee for the UNISPACE III Conference)	22–26 February	Vienna
Legal Subcommittee	1–5 March	Vienna
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (Preparatory Committee for the UNISPACE III Conference)	14–16 July	Vienna

Notes

[1] At its opening meeting, the Chairman informed the Committee that he had been notified that Mouslim Kabbaj (Morocco) was unable to complete his three-year term of office as Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of the Committee.

[2] Cuba and the Republic of Korea are also members of the Committee and will rotate every two years, as of 1 January 1995, with Peru and Malaysia, respectively.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/52/20), annex I.

[4] See ibid., sect. II.E.

[5] Ibid., *Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/50/20), para. 44.

[6] The national core institutions for this network are the Bulgarian Space Agency (Bulgaria), the Greek Centre for Space Science and Technology (Greece), the Hungarian Space Agency (Hungary), the Space Research Centre (Poland), the National Institute for Aerospace Research (Romania), the Slovak Hydrometeorologic Institute (Slovakia) and the Marmara Research Centre (Turkey).

[7] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[8] General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

[9] General Assembly resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex.

[10] General Assembly resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex.

[11] General Assembly resolution 37/92, annex.

[12] General Assembly resolution 41/65, annex.

Annex

Provisional rules of procedure for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

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I. Scope of rules

Application of General Assembly Rules of Procedure

Rule 1

Any matter arising at the Conference, which is convened as a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space open to all States Members, which is not covered by these rules shall be dealt with in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

II. Member State representation

Composition of delegations

Rule 2

1. The delegation of each State participating in the Conference shall consist of a head of delegation and such other representatives, alternate representatives, advisers, experts or persons of similar status, including those from space-related industries, as are deemed necessary or desirable.

2. The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

Submission of Credentials and Provisional Participation

Rule 3

1. The credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretariat of the Conference, if possible not less than one week before the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Any later change in the composition of the delegations shall also be submitted to the secretariat of the Conference.

2. A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its most recent session. The Credentials Committee shall elect its own officers including a Chairperson and such other officers as it may consider necessary. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

3. Pending a decision of the Conference upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

III. Structure of the Conference

Main Committees

Rule 4

The Conference shall establish two main committees, Committee I *(title to be determined)* and Committee II *(title to be determined)*. Each State participating in the Conference may be represented by one representative on each main committee established by the Conference. It may assign to these Committees such alternative representatives and advisers as may be required.

Technical Forum

Rule 5

1. In addition to the committees, the Conference shall establish a Technical Forum as a technical body of the Conference. The Technical Forum will deal with technical presentations relating to the agenda of the Conference, as well as additional components of the Conference, such as workshops and seminars, poster sessions, a space exhibition and public evening lectures. The Conference may, in addition, request that any substantive agenda item be dealt with in the Technical Forum.

2. The Technical Forum shall be presided over by the Chairperson of the Technical Forum, who will be responsible for the general conduct of the business of the Forum and the coordination of its work. The Chairperson of the Technical Forum will report to the Conference on the outcomes of the technical presentation sessions and workshops which deal with substantive items, as well as other activities organized within the Technical Forum which are deemed important to the work of the Conference, and forward for consideration or information, as appropriate, reports of the various bodies of the Technical Forum.

3. The organizers of each workshop of the Technical Forum shall appoint a chairperson and any other officers for the workshop as may be deemed necessary for the conduct of its work.

Other subsidiary bodies

Rule 6

1. The Conference shall establish a Drafting Group, chaired by the Rapporteur-General of the Plenary and

consisting of two designated representatives from each of the five regional groups, together with any additional representatives of the Member States invited by the Rapporteur-General to assist in the preparation of the full draft report.

2. The Conference, the main committees and the Chairperson of the Technical Forum may establish such working groups as they deem necessary for the performance of their functions.

IV. Officers

General Committee

Rule 7

1. The General Committee of the Conference shall consist of the following 10 officers: President, Vice-President and Rapporteur-General of the Plenary; Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur of Committee I; Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur of Committee II; and Chairperson of the Technical Forum. The President, or in his absence the Vice-President, shall serve as Chairperson of the General Committee.

2. The current bureau of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space shall continue as officers of the General Committee of the Conference in the respective functions of President, Vice-President and Rapporteur-General of the Plenary. The remaining seven officers will include the current Chairmen of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and five other officers elected by the Conference from among the representatives of the States participating in the Conference on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. Thus, there shall be two officers from each of the following regional groups: Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Eastern Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; and Western Europe and Other States (five from the current bureaux of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and five to be selected).

3. The General Committee shall assist the President in the general conduct of the business of the Conference and shall ensure the coordination of its work.

V. Opening of the Conference

Role of the Secretary-General

Rule 8

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations or his representative shall open the first meeting of the Conference and preside until the Conference has elected its President.

2. The Secretary-General or his representative shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference and its subsidiary organs.

3. The Secretary-General or his representative shall direct the staff required by the Conference.

Decisions concerning organization

Rule 9

1. The Conference shall, at its first meeting:

(a) Adopt its rules of procedure;[a]

(b) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary bodies;[a]

(c) Adopt its agenda based upon the provisional agenda endorsed by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

(d) Decide on the organization of its work.[a]

2. Recommendations resulting from pre-Conference consultations shall, in principle, be acted upon without further discussion.

VI. Decision-making

General agreement

Rule 10

The Conference being a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the States Members of the United Nations participating in the Conference shall, in accordance with the established practice of that Committee, endeavour on all occasions to ensure that the work of the Conference is conducted in such a way that the Conference will be able to reach agreement in its work, and the adoption of its report, without the need for voting.

VII. Languages and records

Languages of the Conference

Rule 11

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the languages of the Conference.

Interpretation and recording services

Rule 12

1. Statements made in a language of the Conference during meetings of the Plenary or the main committees shall be interpreted into other such languages.

2. A representative may speak in a language other than the language of the Conference if he/she provides for interpretation into one such language.

3. Sound recordings of meetings of the Conference and its main committees shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Unless otherwise decided, no such recordings shall be made of the Technical Forum or the meetings of any working group.

Official documents

Rule 13

1. All draft versions of the report of the Conference and its subsidiary bodies to be issued during the Conference, as well as final documents of the Conference for submission to the General Assembly, will be translated and issued in all languages of the Conference.

2. Working papers intended as in-session documents for the Conference submitted in one of the languages of the Conference by States Members of the United Nations shall be translated and issued in all languages of the Conference, in time for consideration by the Conference.

3. National papers shall be issued only in the languages of original submission, and shall be submitted by the Member States in a sufficient number of copies for distribution to the Conference. Abstracts of these papers, submitted in one of the official languages of the United Nations, shall be translated and issued in all languages of the Conference.

4. Documents submitted by international organizations, as well as invited representatives of space-related industry, shall be governed by rules 14 to 16.

VIII. Other participants and observers

Organizations within the United Nations system and international organizations having permanent observer status with the General Assembly or the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Rule 14

1. Organizations within the United Nations system and international organizations having permanent observer status with the United Nations General Assembly or the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space shall be permitted to deliver general statements in the Plenary. These statements shall be limited to seven (7) minutes. However the full texts of these statements may be circulated in writing.

2. These organizations shall also be permitted to circulate papers in the Plenary and Committee I and Committee II during their consideration of substantive agenda items. Time permitting, the chairpersons of the Plenary, Committee I and Committee II may provide these organizations with the opportunity to make statements on substantive items and participate in discussions.

3. Papers of these organizations shall be issued only in the languages of original submission and shall be submitted in a sufficient number of copies for distribution to the Conference. Abstracts of these papers, submitted in one of the official languages of the United Nations, shall be translated and issued in all languages of the Conference.

International organizations not having permanent observer status with the General Assembly or the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Rule 15

1. International organizations not having permanent observer status with the United Nations General Assembly or the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space but invited to the Conference, shall be permitted to submit general statements in writing to the Plenary.

2. These organizations shall also be permitted to circulate papers in the Plenary and Committee I and Committee II during their consideration of substantive agenda items. In addition, those organizations specifically called upon to prepare reports to the Conference shall be permitted to circulate those papers.

3. Papers of these organizations shall be issued only in the languages of original submission, and shall be submitted

in a sufficient number of copies for distribution to the Conference.

Space-related industries

Rule 16

1. Upon invitation, representatives of space-related industries may conduct presentations at workshops and seminars organized in conjunction with the Conference. Such technical presentations may take place throughout the Conference period. The time allocated to such presentations may be limited to no more than 30 minutes.

2. A limited number of space-industry round-table discussions may be established, with participation by high-level representatives of industry and heads or high-ranking officials of space agencies. As far as possible these should be scheduled at a time that most delegates, including State representatives, are able to attend.

3. Papers relating to these presentations and discussions shall be issued only in the languages of original submission, and shall be submitted in a sufficient number of copies for distribution to the Conference.

IX. Suspension and amendment of the rules of procedure

Method of suspension

Rule 17

Any of these rules may be suspended by the Conference provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given, which may be waived if no representative objects. Any such suspension shall be limited to a specific and stated purpose and to a period required to achieve that purpose.

Method of amendment

Rule 18

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference, after the General Committee has reported on the proposed amendment.

Notes

[a] Based upon the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee.

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